

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A method for electronically processing and organizing pharmacy data for analysis, comprising the steps of:
 - a) defining a first set of standards for determining the validity of a batch file containing at least one pharmacy record;
 - b) defining a second set of standards for determining the relational integrity of each of the at least one pharmacy record in the batch file;
 - c) defining a third set of standards for determining the presence of any data errors in each of the at least one pharmacy record; records;
 - d) assembling at least one electronic batch file by a data source, the at least one electronic batch file comprising a header, at least one pharmacy record and a trailer;
 - e) communicating the at least one electronic batch file from the data source to a data processor;
 - f) checking by the data processor each of the at least one electronic batch file for validity in accordance with the first set of standards and either:
 - i) rejecting the-a respective electronic batch file if it does not meet the first set of standards, and communicating a rejection report to the data source, or
 - ii) accepting the respective electronic batch file if it meets the first set of standards, and storing at least one record from the electronic batch file in a temporary table of a holding database;
 - g) reading a selected record from the temporary table;
 - h) checking the selected record for relational integrity in accordance with the second set of standards, and if any relational integrity errors are found:
 - i) quarantining the selected record, and
 - ii) generating an entry in an exception table for the selected record;
 - i) checking the selected record for data errors in accordance with the third set of defined standards, and if any data errors are found:

- i) quarantining the selected record, and
- ii) generating an entry in the exception table for the selected record;
- j) transferring the selected record to a permanent table of the holding database if no relational integrity or data errors are found;
- k) repeating steps (g) through (j) until all records in the temporary table have been read; and
- l) electronically transferring the records from the permanent table of the holding database to a data warehouse for selective access and analysis.

2. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein communications between the data source and the data processor is via an electronic communications network.

3. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the at least one pharmacy record comprises records comprise patient and transaction data.

4. (currently amended) The method of claim 3 wherein the at least one pharmacy record comprises records comprise details regarding pharmacy facility and personnel, patient payment plan information, patient information, lab codes, medical record codes, and prescription, dispensing and transaction information.

5. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the validity check comprises checking the header for file-naming convention errors, defects and missing information.

6. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the checking of the selected records record for data errors comprises examining for invalid dates, codes, or amounts, missing data, and wrong alpha-numeric characters in data fields.

7. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the data source further:

- a) corrects the rejected batch file, and
- b) communicates a corrected batch file to the data processor.

8. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the steps are accomplished with the aid of at least one computer.

9. (currently amended) A method for electronically processing and organizing pharmacy data for analysis, comprising the steps of:

- a) defining a first set of standards for determining the validity of a batch file containing at least one pharmacy record;
- b) defining a second set of standards for determining the relational integrity of each of the at least one pharmacy record in the batch file;
- c) defining a third set of standards for determining the presence of any data errors in each of the at least one pharmacy record; records;
- d) defining conditions for warnings regarding defects in each of the at least one pharmacy record;records;
- e) assembling at least one electronic batch file by a data source, the at least one electronic batch file comprising a header, at least one pharmacy record and a trailer;
- f) communicating the at least one electronic batch file from the data source to a data processor;
- g) checking by the data processor each of the at least one electronic batch file for validity in accordance with the first set of standards and either:
 - i) rejecting the a respective electronic batch file as a rejected batch file if it does not meet the first set of standards, and communicating a rejection report to the data source, or
 - ii) accepting the a respective electronic batch file as a valid batch file if it meets the first set of standards, and storing the valid batch file in a holding database;
- h) reading a selected record of the valid batch file;
- i) checking the selected record for relational integrity in accordance with the second set of standards, and if any relational integrity errors are found:
 - i) quarantining the selected record, and
 - ii) generating an entry in an exception table for the selected record;
- j) checking the selected record for data errors in accordance with the third set of

defined standards, and if any data errors are found:

- i) quarantining the selected record, and
- ii) generating an entry in the exception table for the selected record;
- k) checking the selected record for warnings, and if any warnings are found:
 - i) flagging the record for later corrective action, and
 - ii) generating an entry in the exception table for the selected record;
- l) transferring the each non-quarantined ~~records~~ record to a permanent table of the holding database;
- m) repeating steps (h) through (l) until all records in the valid batch file have been read;
- n) communicating the non-quarantined records from the permanent table to a data warehouse for storage in a predetermined organizational format; and
- o) undertaking corrective action for the entries in the exception table.

10. (original) The method of claim 9 wherein communications between the data source and the data processor is via an electronic communications network.

11. (currently amended) The method of claim 9 wherein each of the at least one pharmacy record comprises records comprise-patient and transaction data.

12. (currently amended) The method of claim 11 wherein each of the at least one pharmacy record records comprise comprises details regarding pharmacy facility and personnel, patient payment plan information, patient information, lab codes, medical record codes, and prescription, dispensing and transaction information.

13. (original) The method of claim 9 wherein the validity check comprises checking the header for file-naming convention errors, defects and missing information.

14. (currently amended) The method of claim 9 wherein the checking of the selected records~~record~~ for data errors comprises examining for invalid dates, codes, or amounts, missing data, and wrong alpha-numeric characters in data fields.

15. (original) The method of claim 9 wherein the warnings include ICD9 diagnosis codes, and invalid facilities.

16. (original) The method of claim 9, wherein the data source further:

- a) corrects the rejected batch file, and
- b) communicates a corrected batch file to the data processor.

17. (original) The method of claim 16 wherein the corrected batch file is communicated to the data processor via an electronic communications network.

18. (currently amended) The method of claim 9 wherein each of the at least one pharmacy record is ~~records are~~ checked for relational integrity by comparing the at least one pharmacy record ~~records~~ to a master file.

19. (original) The method of claim 9, further comprising the step of communicating a validation report to the data source.

20. (original) The method of claim 19 wherein the report is communicated via an electronic communications network.

21. (original) The method of claim 9, further comprising the step of querying the data warehouse.

22. (original) The method of claim 9 wherein the steps are accomplished with the aid of at least one computer.